

COMBINED DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

We, the inventors,

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2. Name: Michael John NIEMEYER
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3. Name: Lori Tassone HOLMES
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declare that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the attached specification and claims and we verily believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors or discoverers of the invention or discovery in

**THIN, HIGH CAPACITY ABSORBENT STRUCTURE
AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME**

described and claimed in the attached specification; that this application discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in our earlier Provisional patent application of which we hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), Serial No. 60/257,016, filed 20 December 2000; that as to the subject matter of this application which is common to said earlier application; that we do not know and do not believe that this invention was ever known or used in the United States before our invention or discovery thereof; that to the best of our knowledge and belief the invention has not been in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to our application, or patented or made the subject of an inventors' certificate in any foreign country prior to the date of our application on an application filed by ourselves or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to our application in

this country; that we acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventors' certificate on this invention or discovery has been filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

None

POWER OF ATTORNEY

We hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Michael J. Bendel	Reg. No. 39,605	Thomas M. Parker	Reg. No. 42,063
Patricia A. Charlier	Reg. No. 38,840	Sebastian C. Pugliese III	Reg. No. 42,091
Thomas J. Connelly	Reg. No. 28,404	James B. Robinson	Reg. No. 34,912
Gregory E. Croft	Reg. No. 27,542	Karl V. Sidor	Reg. No. 32,597
Ralph H. Dean	Reg. No. 41,550	Douglas H. Tulley	Reg. No. 34,743
Alyssa A. Dudkowski	Reg. No. 40,596	Sue C. Watson	Reg. No. 38,850
Randall W. Fieldhack	Reg. No. 43,611	Patrick C. Wilson	Reg. No. 31,893
Steven D. Flack	Reg. No. 40,608	Paul Y. Yee	Reg. No. 29,460
Thomas M. Gage	Reg. No. 33,385	Thomas W. Speckman	Reg. No. 22,617
Scott B. Garrison	Reg. No. 39,198	Douglas H. Pauley	Reg. No. 33,295
Joseph P. Harps	Reg. No. 28,854	Maxwell J. Petersen	Reg. No. 32,772
William D. Herrick	Reg. No. 25,468	Mark E. Fejer	Reg. No. 34,817
Kyle K. Kappes	Reg. No. 34,846	Charles C. Kinne	Reg. No. 31,631
John P. Kirby, Jr.	Reg. No. 25,348	Nick C. Kottis	Reg. No. 31,974
Nancy M. Klembus	Reg. No. 40,051	Kevin D. Erickson	Reg. No. 38,736
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William W. Letson	Reg. No. 42,797	Eric T. Krischke	Reg. No. 42,769
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PETITION

Wherefore we Pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the attached specification and claims, and we hereby subscribe our names to the attached specification and claims, Declaration, Power of Attorney and this Petition.

DECLARATION

The undersigned further declare that all statements made herein of their knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date

Lawrence Howell SAWYER

Date

Michael John NIEMEYER

Date

Lori Tassone HOLMES